

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 32-43 as follows:

Claims 1-31 (cancelled).

32. (currently amended) ~~An intumescent~~ A material comprising a ~~phyllosilicate~~ layered silicate intercalation compound with an increased volume of expansion and/or a modified onset temperature obtained by intercalating at least one intercalate compound selected from the group consisting of lithium citrate, lithium ~~formate~~ formate, lithium acetate, ~~formate~~ formate, sodium acetate, sodium oxalate, sodium gluconate, sodium methylate, sodium ethylate, sodium propylate, potassium formate, potassium acetate, potassium gluconate, potassium oxalate, ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid dipotassium salt, alcoholates of lithium or potassium with methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, 2-butanol, tert.-butanol, benzyl alcohol, 1-decanol, ethylene glycol, 1,3-propane diol, ~~[[.]]~~ 1,4-butane diol, and glycerol, by cation exchange in native, ~~intumescent~~ expandable vermiculite, hydrobiotite and/or chlorite-vermiculite with a mean particle diameter of 0.1 mm to 10 mm as a layered silicate in a solution of said intercalate compound; separating the layered silicate intercalation compound formed from the suspension; and optionally washing and drying the layered silicate; for use as intumescent, fire-retarding additive for the manufacture of flame proof materials.

33. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound contains ~~intumescent~~ expandable vermiculite, hydrobiotite and/or chlorite-vermiculite having a mean particle diameter of 0.33 mm to 1.0 mm.

34. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is produced using water, an aliphatic or aromatic alcohol, an ether, an ester, an alkane, a cycloalkane, an aromatic solvent and/or an amine as a solvent.

35. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is produced using the intercalate compound in a concentration of 0.01 ~~mol/L~~ mol/L to 5.0 ~~mol/L~~ mol/L in the solution.

36. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 35, wherein the concentration of the intercalate compound is 0.1 ~~mol/L~~ mol/L to 1.0 ~~mol/L~~ mol/L in the solution.

37. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound has been produced at a temperature of the intercalation reaction of 10°C to 150°C.

38. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 37, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is produced at an intercalation temperature of 25°C to 60°C.

39. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound has been produced with an intercalation reaction time of 0.5 hours to 144 hours.

40. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32 wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound has been produced with a reaction time for the intercalation reaction of 10 hours to 36 hours.

41. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the layered silicate intercalation compound is separated from the suspension by filtration or decanting from the suspension, optionally followed by solvent washing and drying.

42. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 32, wherein the drying is carried out at room temperature in a vacuum or in a drying cabinet at elevated temperature.

43. (currently amended) The ~~intumescent~~ material according to claim 42, wherein the drying is carried out in a drying cabinet at 60°C to 80°C for 1 hour to 12 hours.